

2017 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

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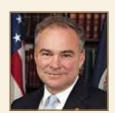
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★ UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324 ★



In 1962, Senate Resolution 324, submitted by Senator KUCHEL (for himself and Senators MANSFIELD, DIRKSEN, and HUMPHREY), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, and, subsequently, unanimously approved by the United State Senate as follows:

WHEREAS the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership; and

WHEREAS individual Senators have cooperated with various private and university undergraduate and graduate fellowship and internship programs relating to the work of Congress; and

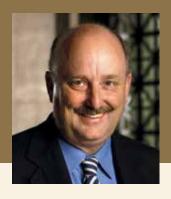
WHEREAS in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged to deepen their interest in and understanding of their country's political process: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school Senate youth program which would give several representative high school students from each State a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION 146. To amend S. Res. 324 of the Eighty-seventh Congress to provide for the participation of the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas in the Senate Youth Program.

RESOLVED, That S. Res. 324, Eighty-seventh Congress, agreed to May 17, 1963, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

SECTION 3. For the purpose of this resolution, the term "State" includes the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III

Dear Delegates,

Congratulations to the 2017 class of the United States Senate Youth Program!

The student delegates of the 55th annual Washington Week came to the nation's capital at a riveting time in our political history. The 2016 presidential campaign, the amplification of partisan debate through social media and the events of the first weeks of the Trump administration served as a dramatic backdrop for the 104 young leaders' arrival in D.C.

The students hailed from across the geographic and political spectrum. Their passionate but civil debate could serve as a model for how we might address the sharp divisions in our country. On behalf of everyone at The Hearst Foundations, we commend all of the students for the respectful and inclusive tone they employed with one another. Delegates, you truly embodied the spirit of optimism and intellectual energy that are hallmarks of the program and of our nation.

The highest levels of leadership in all three branches of government welcomed our delegates in high style this year. Both President Trump and Vice President Pence personally congratulated the students at the White House in an exciting joint appearance. Secretary of State Tillerson addressed the students at the Department of State, and Chief Justice Roberts spoke at length at the Supreme Court, taking many questions. The generosity of these leaders, among the many highlighted in the pages to follow, is deeply appreciated.

We also wish to express our gratitude to both of our 2017 program Co-Chairs, Senator Roger F. Wicker of Mississippi and Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and their staff. Both senators' keynote events were superb opportunities to learn and reflect upon the core principles of our nation. Without the help and support of our Senate Co-Chairs throughout the planning year, the program would not have been possible.

In addition to the educational experience of the week, each delegate also receives a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship in the name of the United States Senate. The week in Washington and the college scholarship are an inseparable award, combining the encouragement and guidance given by the esteemed speakers with financial support to pursue college-level study of government, history and public affairs. The Hearst Foundations are honored to sponsor this unique and enduring partnership with the United States Senate, the state Departments of Education, the Department of Defense and such outstanding students.

Numbering more than 5,500, USSYP alumni continue to excel in prominent public service positions in all branches of government and in all sectors of society. In addition to Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first delegate elected to the U.S. Senate, and Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado, the first delegate elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the second to be elected to the Senate, our alumni fill the leadership ranks of every sector in society.

Finally, Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and their excellent staff. We also thank the Council of Chief State School Officers and all of the state-level education administrators for their pivotal roles in the student selection process.

The program's mission shall continue as long as there are young people in America with a dedication to academic excellence and a desire to serve their country and their communities.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III



The United States Senate Youth Program is an intensive week-long educational experience sponsored by the United States Senate that nurtures an important reservoir of student talent and energy toward the high purpose of public service.

The program was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

The 55th annual Washington Week once again brought 104 outstanding high school students — two from every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity — to Washington, D.C. to see the federal government up close and meet and interact with those who lead it. As the students develop a deeper commitment to public service they also form intellectual and emotional bonds with their peers from across the nation.

Administered and funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception, the USSYP utilizes no government funds. The program is highly competitive and merit based. Qualified students — those already serving in an elected or appointed capacity with excellent academic performance — are nominated by their teachers, principals and guidance counselors and are ultimately selected by their state Departments of Education. Delegates are also each awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. senators, and are encouraged to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.









WELCOME TO WASHINGTON

Excitement and Alumni Mentoring on First Day in D.C.

Traveling from across the nation and overseas, anticipation mounts as delegates are met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown D.C. Meeting for the first time, students are welcomed by their Military Mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. USSYP alumni have distinguished themselves in the fields of government, education, law, health care, engineering, information technology, the nonprofit sector, business and journalism, and are on hand at designated mentoring tables to network with the delegates and answer questions about education and careers.

The evening of arrival day is when all students are gathered for an in-depth orientation about program logistics and expectations. Students learn new levels of protocol and decorum as they are representing their schools, communities and states, as well as the United States Senate. This is also when the students are formally introduced to their Military Mentors, seventeen competitively selected male and female officers from each service branch. Two Senior Mentors assist with the overall execution of the program. The students are divided into 15 small groups, each assigned one Military Mentor to support and guide them through the exciting and demanding week to come.

The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (www.ussyaa.org) has forged and maintained ties with thousands of program alumni. In addition to ongoing activities throughout the year, alumni gather during Washington Week for the association's annual dinner and board meeting.



USSYAA President Michael Gonzales NM – 1973 (center) welcomes the 2017 delegates











A LIFE OF SERVICE INSPIRED BY HISTORY

Senator Roger F. Wicker, in his second term in the U.S. Senate, exemplifies a life of public service. Before becoming senator he was elected seven times to the U.S. House representing Mississippi's First Congressional District. He served in the Mississippi State Legislature, and was on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Reserve, retiring in 2004 with the rank of lieutenant colonel. What became apparent during the opening dinner of Washington Week 2017, is that this senior member of the Republican leadership team is also a passionate student of history. Taking the microphone off the podium and moving deftly among the delegates, Senator Wicker began by peppering them with questions about key dates: 1492, 1776, 1787. The students had no problem with these. But, he said,

"They get harder – 1783?" This was the year George Washington resigned his commission as general of the Continental Army, he told them, establishing civilian control of the military and flatly rejecting the assumption of anything like the monarchal title of king. "Washington basically said, 'We haven't fought this whole time just to have another king. We are different over here, and here our people are going to choose their leaders.' This was really an astounding thing that nobody else was doing anywhere in the world at that time." Key Latin phrases were next: E pluribus unum, Annuit coeptis and Novus ordo seclorum were eagerly deciphered. The last phrase, translated as "A new order of the age" held the senator's focus. He admired the audacity of the Founders who said, "'We are the order of the new age.' When









you go to the monuments and to the Capitol, and see the symbols of our great history, remember that we are guite fortunate to stand on the shoulders of remarkable people who decided to do things differently. Who decided to let the people speak. Now, people in every corner of the world yearn to have something like the new order that we set forward in 1787." The senator's first question from the audience reflected the Latin lesson, noting that our nation seems more "pluribus" than "unum" in the current polarized environment. Senator Wicker hoped that when all is said and done, we will all identify as American and find common ground. He shared his insight from the international perspective he gains as chair of both the Helsinki Commission and the Seapower Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Relaying his efforts to eradicate tropical diseases as part of the Malaria No More organization, he recalled being in Tanzania in 2015 and seeing large banners praising President George W. Bush for early

U.S. AIDS relief programs, which "saved millions of lives and made me proud." Efforts like this are "a way to tell the world that we mean to do good." But, he cautioned, we can only be a strong leader in the world if our own house is in order. "The things that we do about our economy, the decisions we make about our budget, do affect our ability to be a shining light for the rest of the world." He ended pragmatically, after again congratulating the delegates, "So I choose to think that we can take care of business at home and take care of our citizens, but as the superpower in the world, we have no choice but to think on an international basis, and to realize that we're part of its leadership."

[lower right] Senator Roger Wicker with Mississippi delegates Braeden Foldenauer and Robert Slaughter



A Groundbreaking Leader Connects Deeply with the Delegates

Standing before the original founding charters of the United States in the magnificent rotunda of the National Archives, USSYP Democratic Co-Chair Senator Heidi Heitkamp captured the profundity and resplendence of the moment. "The greatest blessing you have, other than your family, is that you are born in this country with this document," she said, pointing to the Constitution. "It has survived the test of time and forms the basis of our social compact." Senator Heitkamp, the first female senator elected from North Dakota, relayed her life's story, beginning with her humble upbringing alongside six brothers and sisters in a very small town. She brimmed with emotion telling the students of the lifelong commitment to education that her hardworking

parents instilled in her and her siblings. Through her intense work ethic and determination and her parents' sacrifice, she headed to college and then law school. At age 28, Senator Heitkamp ran for a first statewide office but did not win. "Life doesn't always ensure victories," she counseled the delegates, "but every opportunity that you seize and take a chance on will change your life's trajectory." In her run for the U.S. Senate, political pundits gave her very low odds of winning in a state that was leaning heavily Republican. Senator Heitkamp then revealed a moment from her past when her physician gave her only a 28% chance of surviving a cancer diagnosis. She shared her inner strength and will to survive and overcome. "People will give you your chances

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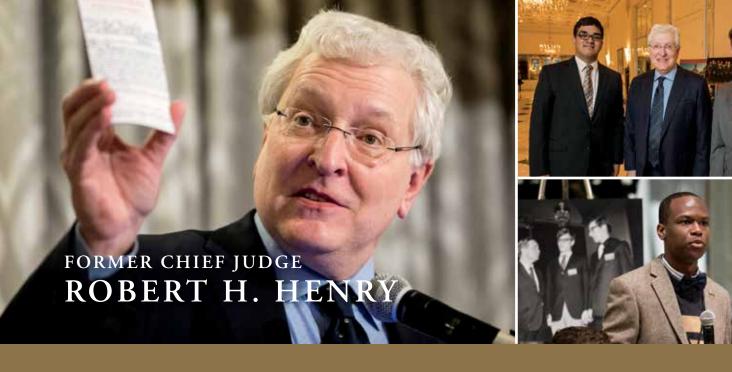


your whole life. Only you know what you can and cannot do. Only you know the possibilities of your life." Given her broad policy background and current service on five Senate committees, Senator Heitkamp easily shifted from one legislative area to another as delegates posed questions on gun control, the Dakota pipeline, the 'glass ceiling' and education reform. She encouraged her young audience to be politically active as soon as possible, "I want to put in a pitch for all levels of diversity, whether racial, religious, ethnic. I think the one diversity we often overlook in public life is age. We need young people to be willing to step up and present. How you see the world, and what you see the world becoming is incredibly important, so you're never too young to

seek the challenge of service and serving." North Dakota delegate Ashlen Wright, in thanking the senator, offered a reflection on the group's earlier experience at the United States Institute of Peace, stating, "conflict resolved with dialogue and progress made with consensus is often more successful than when it's not. That message has been lived by Senator Heidi Heitkamp. She is a role model for us in these contentious times. May her dignity and grace inspire us to reach compromise and make successful progress for the future."

[upper right] Senator Heidi Heitkamp with North Dakota delegates Ashlen Wright and Alyx Schmitz

[lower left] Deputy Archivist of the United States Debra Wall, with North Carolina delegates Joseph Chong and Ryan Wallace



SCHOLAR OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ESTEEMED ALUMNUS DISCUSSES THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

When Robert H. Henry, former chief judge of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and esteemed USSYP alumnus (OK - 1971) alluded to the Broadway phenomenon *Hamilton*, excited applause rippled through the Mayflower's Grand Ballroom audience. It was Alexander Hamilton, he explained, who first laid out the framework for our modern judicial branch in The Federalist Papers, "The judiciary has no influence over either the sword or the purse. It may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment." Judge Henry linked Hamilton's vision of more than two centuries ago to an activity scheduled for later that day: a visit to the U.S. Supreme Court to hear from Chief Justice John Roberts. Agreeing with Hamilton's definition of the judiciary as "the least dangerous branch of government," Judge Henry delved deeper into the balance between law and justice. The judiciary can only interpret the law as written, he reminded, and there are times when the legislative branch may need

to rewrite a law, but the Courts cannot. As Judge Henry quipped, "We don't do justice, we do law." However, he noted, "Hopefully law and justice take similar paths," he said, referring to the Magna Carta as the foundation upon which our Constitution rests. During the breakfast keynote, however, current events were at the forefront of everyone's thoughts. Hearings were on the horizon for Judge Neil Gorsuch, who had served in the same federal district with Judge Henry, to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. If the USSYP delegates had tuned to C-SPAN two weeks after the program, they could have seen Judge Henry testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee during Judge Gorsuch's confirmation hearing. As Judge Henry paused for questions, many hands shot up, and he easily fielded queries about political polarization, hate crimes, judicial activism and the rights of workers. As much as delegates reveled in Judge Henry's vast knowledge, they also appreciated hearing his firsthand experiences as a

delegate. He went through the items in the Washington Week welcome bag, "I love that they gave you a pocket Constitution," he said, quoting Abraham Lincoln's view that, "The Constitution is a frame of silver around the golden Declaration of Independence." He looked wistfully at the USSYP leather Moleskine journals, and held one aloft which contained his notes, urging delegates to utilize them to the fullest. "Take these with you. Make notes. Write in them at night. Make them a journal of your stay here. This is going to be one of the most incredible weeks of your life."

[upper right] Former Chief Judge Robert Henry with Oklahoma delegates Pranoy Behera and Andrew Hill

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR. A Memorable Meeting in America's 'Temple of Justice'

It is certainly not every day that a group of teenagers receives a private educational session with the chief justice of the United States, even those most motivated and interested in law and government. But a lecture and lengthy Q&A with Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. in the Supreme courtroom is exactly what the fortunate Class of 2017 Senate Youth Program delegates were treated to on the first day of Washington Week. The chief justice, who had majored in history as an undergraduate, began with background on the origin of the Supreme Court building itself, noting that prior to its construction in 1935 the justices worked in the basement of the Capitol. He explained details of the neo-classically designed courtroom, including the beautiful Italian marble columns that bolster the chamber and the curving wooden bench where the justices are seated. "The bench is curled so the attorneys feel encircled by the justices," he said, adding that he has heard upwards of one hundred questions asked from the bench in the space of an hour. Justices ask questions in order of seniority,

he explained, noting that the most heated questioning often provokes the highest quality response. The date of the USSYP meeting with the chief justice also marked the 160th anniversary of the Dred Scott decision, the landmark case that held that persons of African descent could not be American citizens or have standing in federal court. Many believe that the 1857 decision, universally denounced, to be an indirect catalyst of the Civil War, and he discussed the ruling by then-Chief Justice Roger Taney as an example of disastrous judicial overreach. The chief justice said that Taney could have been characterized as evil, due to his prejudice and racism, but that he also displayed incredible arrogance to think that he could singularly decide the issue of slavery from the bench. By contrast, he lauded Chief Justice John Marshall's brilliance and precise writing ability during Marbury v. Madison, and noted another case where skill and economy in writing had enormous impact, the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education that is only ten pages long. The chief justice took many questions from

the eager delegates whose hands flew into the air at each pause. When asked which political documents he relies upon most frequently to inform decisions, he cited the Constitution, The Federalist Papers and the Ratification Debate. Asked to describe common characteristics among his colleagues, he remarked that they are all extremely smart and collegial, and that each have unique hobbies that contribute to them being very interesting people personally. Offering his view of the role of the judicial branch, he paraphrased a famous quote by Justice Louis Brandeis who said, "Our job is not to do justice, but to respond to the Constitution. If citizenry want to go to hell, then let them." As he smiled at the delegates he explained his thoughts further, "Continuing to talk to the legislatures and voting for whom you believe in is the route to change. The job of the court is to interpret the laws, not to make them."

[lower left] Chief Justice John Roberts with Indiana delegates Jake Ingoglia and Rushi Patel





ELIZABETH MACDONOUGH Senior Senate Officers Offer Behind the Scenes Insight and Career Advice





[above] Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams with lowa delegates Michael Moonjely and Anuja Pharasi

[below] Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough with Vermont delegates Anneka Williams and A.J. Braverman

Many of the keynote speakers of Washington Week have their names in the headlines on a daily or weekly basis. But the smooth functioning of the United States Senate is ensured by two senior public servants whose roles are, for the most part, behind the scenes. Julie Adams, the 33rd secretary of the United States Senate, a position founded in 1789, offered advice and inspiration. As a native lowan, she became interested in the political process by "growing up seeing presidential candidates come through my hometown as if it were normal to meet someone who might be president." Ms. Adams likened one of her first jobs on the Hill, in a press office, to being back in school, saying "it forced me to learn a little bit about a lot of issues, and quickly. I was learning something new every day and I was surrounded by really smart, hardworking people." She asked delegates to look beyond the headlines and soundbites and understand that "it is possible to be nonpartisan and work in Washington." She described a recent dinner, away from cameras, "Where members of both parties were sitting at tables with their spouses and guests, laughing and genuinely enjoying one other's company. It was fun and refreshing to see." Describing the Senate community "as very much a family," she hoped that USSYP delegates would one day find a home there too, if interested. "Remain humble. Have a strong work ethic. Share credit with those who helped you. Master the mundane tasks and more complex responsibilities will come your way," she offered. Though Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough may be seen regularly by C-SPAN viewers deftly commandeering procedure on the Senate floor, she reserves her one public speech a year for the USSYP. She and her colleagues are usually seated just below the presiding officer in the Senate chamber when the Senate is in session. "I serve as a nonpartisan, apolitical umpire for the Senate, a neutral arbiter of its rules and procedures, an interpreter of federal law and the Constitution as they apply to the Senate's conduct of day-to-day business," she explained. In a polarized era, hers may be one of the most challenging jobs in Washington, but, she says, "I always have as my primary charge, the best interests of the Senate as an institution." Like Secretary Adams, Ms. MacDonough loves that the job requires her to know "a fair amount about a huge range of topics" as she is never sure what issues will cross her desk. In response to one of many delegate questions, both Secretary Adams and Ms. MacDonough added a global perspective. Recently returned from a trip to European parliaments to exchange information, their biggest surprise was the condensed timeframe to vote in the European Union (EU). Votes seemed to take place "in about four seconds," Ms. MacDonough said, whereas in the Senate, there is a 15-minute window, with a lengthy grace period. What intrigued their European counterparts the most about the U.S. Congress? The Congressional Research Service, which is available to all congressional members and staff to gather information needed in drafting legislation. Overall, the two Senate veterans affirmed, that "Public service is a noble calling." With a standing ovation to conclude the session, the audience agreed.









Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden and Senate Historian Dr. Betty Koed

The Madison Building of the Library of Congress was the setting for Washington Week's traditional Monday luncheon with the Senate Historian, Dr. Betty Koed. The newly confirmed 14th Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, welcomed delegates and guests enthusiastically. On her way to a budget meeting, Dr. Hayden took time to congratulate the delegates and give them an overview of her personal path to serving as head of the largest library in the world. "You have a runway of every possibility in front of you," she assured. Senate Historian Dr. Betty Koed shared lively discussion with delegates and educators before approaching the podium. Those fortunate enough to hear Dr. Koed's past keynote speeches to the USSYP expected to hear the famous names of the lions of Senates past – monikers instantly familiar to anyone who has read a history book. However, the people woven into this year's narrative were Senate messenger Tobias Simpson, ladies retiring room attendant Kate Brown, and Senate press gallery journalist Louis Walter. Tobias Simpson, an African-American Senate messenger in 1814, at great risk to his life, loaded nearly all Senate documents from the founding of our nation into a rickety wagon and shepherded them to safety in the hours before the Capitol was burned to the ground by British troops. Kate Brown did not have a prestigious job on Capitol Hill, but had the strength to stand firm against the segregation of railway cars in 1868, and won her case in the Supreme Court in 1872. Louis Walter, a respected journalist from Atlanta, was barred from the Senate Press Gallery in 1947 because of his race. "In the Capitol of the greatest free country of the world, we certainly should have no discrimination," Mr. Walter argued. The Senate Rules Committee agreed and changed the policy that same year. "As Senate historian, I am making sure these stories are not forgotten," Dr. Koed firmly promised. "Senate history reminds us of the importance of every individual," she said, "including the Senate's unsung or forgotten heroes who tried, and often succeeded, to make a difference." Famous names, however, were not absent from her list. Dr. Koed reflected on the determination of Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire

who came to the Senate floor on January 11, 1967 to urge the passage of the Genocide Treaty crafted by the United Nations in the dark days following World War II and the Holocaust. "I serve notice that I will speak in this chamber day after day until the Senate calls up the Genocide Treaty," he declared. He kept his word. Nineteen years, and more than 3,000 speeches later, the Senate passed the treaty by a vote of 83-11. Dr. Koed fielded a multitude of guestions from curious delegates, adeptly pivoting from the consequences of historical biases, to television cameras in the Senate chambers, to describing the most misconstrued moment in Senate history. As California delegate Samuel Goidell thanked Dr. Koed for her insight, knowledge and spirit, applause filled the Montpelier Room of the Library of Congress. "I am a firm believer in the power of history," Dr. Koed explained, "to understand how we got to where we are is intrinsic to guiding our future."

[upper right] Dr. Carla Hayden with Illinois delegates Gloria Oladipo and Sung Keun Park [lower right] Dr. Betty Koed with California delegates Amira Chowdhury and Samuel Goidell



PRESIDENT TRUMP & VICE PRESIDENT PENCE A Special Welcome from the New Administration

Anticipation mounted in the East Room of the White House as the delegates eagerly awaited the annual Senate Youth Program meeting with the commander in chief. When the doors swung open, excitement doubled as delegates saw not only President Donald Trump, but also Vice President Michael Pence. After a warm welcome from the vice president, President Trump stepped forward with words of congratulation and inspiration. He expressed tremendous faith in the delegates before him,



"One of you will be standing right here where I am, I am sure of it," he declared. The executive leaders exchanged many handshakes with the students and photos of all guests were taken in an unforgettable inaugural event.







SENATOR CORY BOOKER OF NEW JERSEY You eat from banquet tables prepared by your ancestors; You can't pay them back, you have to pay them forward.

Democratic Senator of New Jersey Cory Booker's voice boomed with enthusiasm as he spoke to the delegates before heading to the Senate floor for a vote. He had much to say in a short space of time, so he wasted none in analyzing the state of the "American Dream" and outlining an impassioned vision for the future. "We spend hundreds of billions of dollars dealing with terrorism, but we have issues in our communities coast to coast that have the same urgency and the same threat to human life," he declared, "And these issues are actually undermining our place in the world." He cited the urgent need for criminal justice and sentencing reform, particularly in the case of juvenile detention where, he noted, "There are things going on in our prison systems right now that other countries call torture. Putting juveniles in solitary confinement before they've even been convicted of anything has such a deleterious effect on mental health that the majority of suicides in prisons are kids in solitary confinement." He enumerated environmental toxins and pollution, unsafe drinking water, intransigent poverty and unequal access to good education as injustices to fight against to keep the American dream alive. "The problem is we've gotten so much better in divorcing ourselves from each other that we fail to see that our country still hasn't lived up to its promise to be a nation of liberty and justice for all," he reflected. Senator Booker was spurred to

public service by the words of his parents who impressed upon him the sacrifices others had made. "You drink deeply from wells of freedom, liberty and opportunity that you didn't dig," they taught him. "You sit under the shade of trees that you didn't plant. You are here because of others. You cannot pay them back. You've got to pay them forward." When Senator Booker saw a complaint on Twitter about the cost of school lunches for low-income families, he responded by living on SNAP [food assistance program] for a month, to experience and chronicle the hardship. "This might be the last election where baby boomers are in every office at the national level. Generation X and millennials are working their way up," he said, challenging his young audience, "What are you willing to do?" He hoped that "we are going to be a nation of the highest principles of humanity, but in order for this thing to work, as they said in the Declaration of Independence, we have to have a commitment to each other, a love of one another." "Patriotism is love of country," he added in closing, "but you can't love your country unless you love your fellow countrymen and women. You don't always have to agree with them, but it necessitates love."

[lower right] Senator Cory Booker with New Jersey delegates Jinyuan Zhang and Nicholas LaBelle

National Counterterrorism Leader Encourages Resiliency and Offers Clear Keys to Success

Delegates discover that the day starts early during Washington Week, but the rewards of hearing directly from America's most distinguished public servants at a breakfast keynote speech make the week an unforgettable experience. After a 7:00 a.m. meal and cup of coffee (or two), one of the true heroes in the daily battle to protect our homeland came to the podium. Nicholas J. Rasmussen, who began his career as an unpaid government intern having to sleep in his parents' basement, now leads the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Sensing the talented future leaders in the audience, Director Rasmussen offered three pieces of advice. "I hope one day I'll look around and see some of you serving in Congress, serving in the executive branch, or maybe sitting in my chair as the director of the National Counterterrorism Center," he said. To achieve this he urged a focus on communications acumen, saying, "Make sure you develop a keen ability to write well and to think analytically because these are invaluable skills. There is no pathway that you will pursue where these skills won't be incredibly important to you. Whatever is going to be happening in the global economy, there is always a job for someone who can think, speak and write with clarity and precision." The second key to success, he summed up in one word—resilience. He encouraged the delegates to develop the toughness to overcome challenges and bounce back from

adversity. Lastly, he offered a welcome challenge to teenagers everywhere: embrace digital technology. "Make an effort to keep pace with technology and how technology changes, and be creative in understanding how technology and data contribute to our understanding of complex problems," he encouraged. Early in his remarks, Director Rasmussen acknowledged an esteemed USSYP alumna. He described how Senator Susan Collins (ME – 1971) "is in some ways the godmother of the NCTC. She was one of the sponsors of the legislation that created the Center." Today, this agency created after the dark morning of September 11, 2001, "has over 1,000 public servants who work every single day to analyze and understand every available bit of information we can find about terrorism," he explained. "We have access to an enormous amount of information and it's our job to piece that together and develop a full picture." During a long Q&A session with the students, Director Rasmussen adeptly pivoted from issue to issue in a wave of in-depth questions on topics such as personal privacy rights vs. governmental access to information, the national security implications of a revamped immigration policy and the important work of outreach and community building to prevent individuals from becoming extremist. His dedication and calm resolve were an inspiration to all.

[upper right] Director Nick Rasmussen with Connecticut delegates Isha Dalal and Emily Sullivan









SECRETARY OF STATE REX W. TILLERSON

Luncheon at the U.S. Department of State

Not all keynote speeches at the United States Senate Youth Program open with the Boy Scout oath, but when West Virginia delegate Joseph Touma included that oath in his introduction of the newly confirmed Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, it had special significance. The secretary of State, Touma and Georgia delegate Jacob Cone who offered appreciation remarks, were Eagle Scouts, and that heritage of honor, integrity and public service was at the heart of the secretary's remarks. Noting all the young faces in the audience, Secretary Tillerson commended the student leaders on "Your willingness to volunteer and your willingness to be engaged." "You will be our future leaders, our future citizens, and I hope when you go back home you will inspire others to take a greater interest in what goes on here in our government in Washington." The secretary offered advice for life. "Your personal integrity is the most valuable asset you have. Stay true to it," he implored. "Understand the big picture, but master the small details; it's the small things that matter," he said, "approach them with as much enthusiasm and commitment as you would a headline-worthy task." Lastly, he counseled, "If you make listening your occupation, you will gain much more than you can by talk." Ambassador Joe Macmanus of the State



Department Bureau of Legislative Affairs and longtime diplomat Susan Stevenson of the Bureau of Public Affairs served as gracious hosts for the USSYP annual luncheon in the gilded Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room. Shimmering tablecloths, fragrant fresh flowers, a sumptuous dessert and engaging and knowledgeable foreign policy specialists who serve as hosts at each table make this event an indelible Washington Week memory. The State Department Reception Rooms, showcasing George Washington's porcelain, Paul Revere's silver and Thomas Jefferson's writing table offer the chance to step into the pages of early American history. Knowing of the dedication to service of the accomplished students in the audience, the secretary of State encouraged that commitment to continue and strengthen in his closing remarks. Personal connection is a key, he said. "Take every engagement with every human being you encounter as an opportunity to improve your knowledge and your experience, and more importantly, your understanding of what it means to be a part of a very rich society made up of diverse, complex people – not just here at home but around the world."

[upper left] Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with delegates Joseph Touma of West Virginia and Jacob Cone of Georgia [lower right] Executive Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Ambassador Joe Macmanus





HONORS FROM THEIR SENATORS























SENATE RECEPTION ATTENDEES

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2017

Seventy-seven senators participated in Washington Week 2017, either at speaking events or by attending the 55th annual USSYP Senate Reception where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$10,000 college scholarship certificates.



ALABAMA

Senator Richard C. Shelby with Emma Turner and Sydney Ross



ALABAMA

Senator Luther Strange with Emma Turner and Sydney Ross



ALASKA

Senator Daniel Sullivan with Wilfried Zibell and Madeline Ko



ARIZONA

Senator Jeff Flake with Henry Rosas Ibarra and Meena Venkataramanan



ARKANSAS

Senator John Boozman with Shreya Majagi and Robert Parker



ARKANSAS

Senator Tom Cotton with Robert Parker and Shreya Majagi



CALIFORNIA

Senator Kamala Harris with Samuel Goidell and Amira Chowdhury



COLORADO

Senator Michael F. Bennet with Maia Brockbank and Tennyson Brown-Wolf



COLORADO

Senator Cory Gardner with Tennyson Brown-Wolf and Maia Brockbank



CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Emma Rook, Isha Dalal and Emily Sullivan



CONNECTICUT

Senator Christopher S. Murphy with Emily Sullivan, Emma Rook and Isha Dalal



DELAWARE

Senator Thomas R. Carper with Cyrus Shanehsaz and Babak Badiey



DELAWARE

Senator Christopher A. Coons with Babak Badiey and Cyrus Shanehsaz



FLORIDA

Senator Marco Rubio with Sydney Honeycutt and Sterling Alic



HAWAII

Senator Brian Schatz with Jessica Valdez and Matthew Darrah



HAWAII

Senator Mazie K. Hirono with Jessica Valdez and Matthew Darrah



IDAHO

Senator James E. Risch with Ian Muir and Kathy Min



ILLINOIS

Senator Tammy Duckworth with Gloria Oladipo and Sung Keun Park



INDIANA

Senator Joe Donnelly with Rushi Patel and Jake Ingoglia



INDIANA

Senator Todd Young with Rushi Patel and Jake Ingoglia



IOWA

Senator Charles Grassley with Michael Moonjely and Anuja Pharasi



IOWA

Senator Joni K. Ernst with Michael Moonjely and Anuja Pharasi



KANSAS

Senator Pat Roberts with Tel Wittmer and John Campbell



KANSAS

Senator Jerry Moran with Tel Wittmer and John Campbell



LOUISIANA

Senator Bill Cassidy with Sarah Procopio and Elisabeth McLaughlin



LOUISIANA

Senator John Kennedy with Sarah Procopio and Elisabeth McLaughlin



MAINE

Senator Susan M. Collins with Lily Tedford and Kathleen Waeldner



MAINE

Senator Angus S. King with Kathleen Waeldner and Lily Tedford



MARYLAND

Senator Chris Van Hollen with David Edimo and David Polefrone



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Elizabeth Warren with Tony Shu and Sara Hogenboom



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Edward J. Markey with Sara Hogenboom and Tony Shu



MICHIGAN

Senator Debbie Stabenow with Dale Apley III and Prathusha Yeruva



MICHIGAN

Senator Gary Peters with Dale Apley III and Prathusha Yeruva



MINNESOTA

Senator Al Franken with Heather Weller and Alexander Pavlicin



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Thad Cochran and Senator Roger Wicker with Robert Slaughter and Braeden Foldenauer



MISSOURI

Senator Roy Blunt with Keturah Gadson and Andrew Pogue



MONTANA

Senator Steve Daines and Senator Jon Tester with Allison Reinhardt and Mason Hutchinson



NEBRASKA

Senator Deb Fischer with Jacob McNeill and Matthew Fredricks



NEBRASKA

Senator Ben Sasse with Jacob McNeill and Matthew Fredricks



NEVADA

Senator Dean Heller with Emmanuel Berrelleza and Lauren Lim



NEVADA

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto with Emmanuel Berrelleza and Lauren Lim



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Jeanne Shaheen with Marion Lovett and Dennis Ruprecht, Jr.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Maggie Hassan with Marion Lovett and Dennis Ruprecht, Jr.



NEW JERSEY

Senator Robert Menendez with Jinyuan Zhang and Nicholas LaBelle



NEW JERSEY

Senator Cory Booker with Jinyuan Zhang and Nicholas LaBelle



NEW MEXICO

Senator Tom Udall with James Valerio and Irene Fernald



NEW MEXICO

Senator Martin Heinrich with James Valerio and Irene Fernald



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator John Hoeven with Alyx Schmitz and Ashlen Wright



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Heidi Heitkamp with Ashlen Wright and Alyx Schmitz



OHIO

Senator Rob Portman with Benjamin Duwve and Nayan Rao



OKLAHOMA

Senator James M. Inhofe with Andrew Hill and Pranoy Behera



OKLAHOMA

Senator James Lankford with Andrew Hill and Pranoy Behera



OREGON

Senator Ron Wyden with Marin Christensen and Nicole Zhen



OREGON

Senator Jeff Merkley with Marin Christensen and Nicole Zhen



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert P. Casey with Morgan Vincent and James Smith



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Patrick J. Toomey with James Smith and Morgan Vincent



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Jack Reed with Maura Goss and Elias O'Brien



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Elias O'Brien and Maura Goss



SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Lindsey Graham with Lee Adi and Douglas Stewart II



SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Tim Scott with Douglas Stewart II and Lee Adi



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Michael Rounds and Senator John Thune with Bridger Gordon and Amanda Finnegan



TENNESSEE

Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker with John Casey, Sydney Rowell and Parin Bhaduri



UTAH

Senator Mike Lee with Sabrina Ellis and Carter Martindale



VERMONT

Senator Patrick J. Leahy with Anneka Williams and A.J. Braverman



VERMONT

Senator Bernard Sanders with Anneka Williams and A.J. Braverman



VIRGINIA

Senator Tim Kaine with Erin Sullivan and Mazzen Shalaby



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Joe Manchin III with Antonella Blanco and Joseph Touma



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Shelley Moore Capito with Antonella Blanco and Joseph Touma



WISCONSIN

Senator Ron Johnson with Ananda Deacon and Mikayla Kelz



WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin with Ananda Deacon and Mikayla Kelz



WYOMING

Senator Michael B. Enzi with Grace Belize Anderson and Nicole Sanders



WYOMING

Senator John Barrasso with Grace Belize Anderson and Nicole Sanders



The Outstanding 2017 MILITARY MENTOR TEAM

Competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense were led by Senior Military Officer, Major Jonathan Bissell, USA and Assistant Senior Military Officer, Captain Kathryn Hedgecock, USA.



From left to right: Captain Jeffrey R. Dierling, USMC; Captain Margaret M. Seymour, USMC; First Lieutenant Emily J. Meyer, USMC; Lieutenant Commander Dewey W. Worker, USCG; Major Carlos B. Jayme, USAF; First Lieutenant Jeffrey S. Dobrow, USAF; Captain Chavery S. McClanahan, USAF; Captain Suntrease W. Williams-Maynard, USAFR; Lieutenant Paul L. Marder, USN; Captain Bryanna N. Appleby, USAF; Major Jonathan E. Bissell, USA; Captain Kathryn J. Hedgecock, USA; Major Anne J. Boaden, USMCR; Captain Veronica J. Mack, USARNG; Captain Christopher J. Gallegos, USAF; Lieutenant Sharyl L. Pels, USCG; Lieutenant Junior Grade Ryan J. Vandehei, USCG

JOURNALIST BOB SCHIEFFER Master of American Journalism Shares Stories and Wisdom

The USSYP Class of 2017 had the great fortune to hear from Bob Shieffer, an eyewitness to history, and one of the most respected journalistic minds in America. Whether delegates and their families knew him from the CBS Evening News, or joined him on Sunday mornings watching Face The Nation, Bob Schieffer has been a part of the American political dialogue for more than 50 years. Warmly welcomed by his home state Texas delegates, Mr. Schieffer spoke of working today with colleagues not much older than the delegates themselves. "I may be more hip than some of you might suspect," he said jovially. The world of journalism has transformed since he was an overnight crime reporter for a college radio station earning \$1 an hour. But some principles are set in stone. "The most important thing we can do is get it right," he said, "There is nothing that hurts our credibility more than getting it wrong." Delving further into the mission of the fourth estate, he continued, "Our purpose is to find the truth. When someone in government says something, it's our responsibility to check it out and find out, number one, if it's true, and if it is, then examine the implications for the governed, the people that it will affect most." He encouraged the young leaders in his audience to follow his path if they were inclined, noting that whether or not journalism was their passion, "whatever you decide to do, pick

out something you like. Don't worry about the salary. Don't worry about anything except whether this is something I really like. If you pick something you like, then it won't seem like work." He regaled the delegates with many stories of what life was like as a cub reporter, including the amazing story of his exclusive interview with Lee Harvey Oswald's mother on the heels of the Kennedy assassination. "Our responsibility is to ask questions," he affirmed. "It has been paramount since the early days of our nation. When the Founders wrote the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they saw the press as absolutely as important a part of our political process as their ingenious plan of dividing power into three separate branches of government." A member of what is characterized as 'the greatest generation,' Mr. Schieffer closed his remarks with a plea for the next generation, "We have got to get our young people to understand the importance of public affairs, whether it's journalism, or even better – I wish every person in this room would run for office. I don't care if you are Democrat, Republican, vegetarian, or something in between. We need bright, young, smart, courageous people to get interested in our political system again."

[upper right] Bob Schieffer with Texas delegates Ricky Cooks, Jr. and Amina Mabizari











VICE ADMIRAL VIVEK MURTHY An Investment in Health is an Investment in Our Nation

Philosophical ideas were the core of the presentation by Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy, the 19th surgeon general of the United States. The soft-spoken, self-effacing 39-year-old came to the podium as the youngest person and the first Indian-American ever appointed to the position. Alluding to his glowing introduction by Massachusetts delegate Sara Hogenboom, he observed that what you don't often hear about a speaker "are the challenging points, the low points, the times of uncertainty." How you deal with those moments is key throughout your life, he explained. When faced with decisions or roadblocks, allowing time to contemplate is crucial. "I want to emphasize to you that it is those empty spaces in our lives that truly allow our lives to blossom and be full in the long term because that's when creativity happens. That's when we have accidents of fate that bring us into contact with unexpected people and ideas. That's when you take a turn in life that you may not expect, but may be exactly what you need." Dr. Murthy described his childhood in Florida, and the afternoons spent in his parents' medical clinic that shaped his life's journey. "I wanted to be able to contribute to alleviating suffering in a tangible and direct way. That's what inspired me to go into medicine." Early on in his life he broadened his interest in medicine to public health. As a young undergraduate at Harvard, Dr. Murthy co-founded VISIONS Worldwide, Inc., a nonprofit organization that organized HIV/AIDS preventive education and empowerment programs in India and the United States. Two years later, he also co-founded Swasthya, a community health partnership to promote basic health education, clinical care and social support in

Sringeri, India. He emphasized the need for short-term over long-term planning in one's personal life, and that being open to taking risks allowed him to find his true path. "We think often about our 3 or 5 or 10-year plan, and while that is good to think about, that can't come at the expense of completely losing fulfillment in what you are doing now," he counseled. "When you are engaged in doing work that is fulfilling to you, that is when you are most creative. That's when your best ideas come out. That's when you can contribute the most to the world." As the leader of the nation's public health service, Dr. Murthy took a big-picture and long-term view of the health challenges we face with a focus on prevention and collective action. His vision includes community plans to increase sidewalks, because walking just 22 minutes a day reduces the risk of diabetes by 30% and heart disease by 20%, as well as other infrastructure improvements such as safe water pipes to avoid and alleviate crises such as what occurred in Flint, Michigan. "When it comes to health, the big challenge we have now is how to shift our country from being a nation that is predominantly focused on treatment to being one that also values and invests in prevention," he said. After taking many questions, the surgeon general left the group with inspiring words, "I see in you the hope that this country desperately needs, and I want to tell you that you don't have to wait to make good on that hope, you can do so through the work you are doing right now."

[upper right] VADM Vivek Murthy with Massachusetts delegates Sarah Hogenboom and Tony Shu

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RON DERMER An Alliance Built on Shared Interests and Shared Values

Each year, Senate Youth delegates are fortunate to receive a perspective on America from abroad, and a specific window to the issues and culture of one of our important international partners. Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer provided both, in addition to offering meaningful personal advice to the delegates. "To be Israel's ambassador to the United States is a unique experience, because we are blessed to have America as a friend," he relayed. "There is no alliance and no friendship more important to us." He made very clear the mutual nature of this friendship, and the staunch promise Israel makes to us, "In the 20th century, your most important ally was Great Britain. I think in the 21st century, your most important ally will be Israel, and I will tell you why, and why I believe this alliance will grow," he said. Noting that the Middle East, "with all of its dangers and all of its radicalism is not going to 'pivot' away from you," he counseled that America will need Israel as a very strong ally who can protect American interests, project American values and be willing to fight common enemies. The fact that Israel celebrates International Women's Day is an example of our shared values, he said,

noting that his is a country where a woman has served as head of all three branches of government: as prime minister, chief justice of the Supreme Court and speaker of the Knesset. Speaking heart to heart with students on the edge of adulthood, he described his decision to follow a nontraditional path after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. It would have been easy to follow the crowd into the financial markets, something he had decided would not be as fulfilling as working in policy and journalism. "I took the path I believed in, and I wanted to make a contribution. I had no idea that I was going to be Israel's ambassador to the United States. There was no master plan." "Follow your heart, and study something you are interested in and passionate about," he urged. The ambassador, born and raised in Miami, Florida, described his childhood. "In my house, when we were growing up, public service was seen as the highest calling," he said. His father and brother, combined, have served five terms in his hometown mayor's office. He acknowledged, though, that this is not always the easiest path. "It's difficult in the beginning because you go away from a lot of jobs that people are

going towards, jobs that might bring you more prestige, more money, but you are focusing on what you think is important." Another key piece of advice he proffered was to seek out exceptional teachers and form bonds with them, saying "If you meet somebody who inspires you, if you have a teacher that excites you about learning, then follow those teachers and learn from them whatever it is that they teach." Brains and chutzpah have been the cornerstones of Israel's past, and may hold the keys to his country's future, according to the ambassador. The small nation of 8.5 million citizens is leading the world in cybersecurity investment, agricultural innovation, water recycling and is well-poised to become a global technological power. This chutzpah, or self-confidence and daring, encourages Israeli scientists to challenge accepted norms and propose entirely new solutions. It was apparent that from a young age Ambassador Ron Dermer was surrounded by role models for education, leadership and public service. After spending time, face to face, with the USSYP Class of 2017, he is now serving as a personal role model to America's future leaders.

[lower left] Ambassador Ron Dermer with Florida delegates Sterling Alic and Sydney Honeycutt











Youth Leadership and Peacebuilding in the 21st Century

Interactive discussion, using terminology from a conflict resolution template called the 'Peacebuilding Toolkit,' marked the Senate Youth Program's first visit to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). The sleek, modern Carlucci Auditorium was the venue for welcome remarks by USIP President Nancy Lindborg, who recalled the Congressional actions that created the organization 30 years ago. "The United States Institute of Peace is federally funded, but an independent, national institution dedicated to the proposition that peace is very possible; it is very practical, and it is essential for our national and international security." Situated next door to the Department of State, the architecture of the beautiful USIP headquarters reflects its mission. Facets include a soaring white roofline resembling a dove in flight and a flagpole replica of the dove on the weathervane that sits above Mount Vernon, which was designed by George Washington following the harrowing years of the Revolutionary War. Ms. Lindborg's background in human rights and humanitarian assistance includes years of experience in conflict-ravaged regions, such as Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Syria. Her words served as inspiration for the hands-on peacebuilding workshops that followed, entitled Bridging Divides. Delegates divided into smaller groups for more in-depth explorations of conflict in Afghanistan, Nigeria or Israel, utilizing concepts from the toolkit. Experienced mediators for each region served as facilitators, with a special focus on the

role young people can play in building lasting peace. Sung Keun Park, a delegate from Illinois, remarked that he was impressed with the "quantitative steps" discussed in the toolkit; it made the possibility for peace less nebulous and more tangible. Alabama delegate Emma Turner noted the link between literacy rates and conflict, and the increased challenges to sustaining peace in areas with high illiteracy. Delegate Ricky Cooks of Texas summed up the feelings of many when he envisioned speaking with an older powerbroker, "The decisions you make or don't make today will affect us most in the future." Ms. Lindborg avidly agreed that the youth of the world hold the keys to the future, and elicited a nervous chuckle from the audience with her assessment, "What the world looks like will depend on efforts of people like you, and you are all here because you are leaders. What you do, and the actions that you take - no pressure - will mean a great deal of difference to the future of our country and our planet." In closing remarks, Minnesota delegate Heather Weller looked to past peacemakers to sum up the USIP experience, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr. saying "Peace is not merely a distinct goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

[upper right] USIP President Nancy Lindborg with Minnesota delegates Alexander Pavlicin and Heather Weller







EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI JACK WARREN Preserving the Ideals of the American Revolution

Delegates' eyes opened wide in amazement as they entered the elegant golden ballroom of the Anderson House mansion, located on a wide tree-lined portion of Massachusetts Avenue known as Embassy Row. Built in 1905, this Florentine-style villa now serves as the headquarters and museum for the Society of The Cincinnati, self-described as the nation's oldest patriotic organization. As Executive Director Warren explained in his welcome, "This is probably the one place you will visit during your week that you might not have heard of. But we have the privilege and honor of being older than the government of the United States." The society was founded at the end of the Revolutionary War by officers of the Continental Army, and it is now a nonprofit educational organization that houses rare historical documents and artifacts reflecting the principles and ideals of its founders. A Revolutionary War scholar and renowned historian, Mr. Warren brings the founding of our nation to life with words and imagery vivid enough to bridge the centuries. The Founding Fathers are often characterized as fearless, but as Mr. Warren explored

further, "In some ways they were, but there was one thing that they feared above all else — that the revolution they had fought, and the principles that they had risked their lives for, would be forgotten." The Society of the Cincinnati is determined not to let that happen. Mr. Warren outlined the similarities between those who began our nation and the delegates sitting before him, "Their purpose was to perpetuate the idea of civic virtue, the idea that you must sacrifice your own interests for the good of the nation that you live in and serve." By deciding to commit a portion of their life to public service, Mr. Warren assured delegates they would be "heirs of our revolution." The principles of the nation's founders have been expanded in our modern era, he said, with respect to gender and race, but there is more freedom to be obtained in the world, in Mr. Warren's estimation, "not by the force of arms but by the compulsion of great ideas. Freedom is a very powerful idea."

[upper right] Executive Director Jack Warren with District of Columbia delegates Dakota Fluery and John Nugent

MARK SHRIVER, SAVE THE CHILDREN There are so Many Opportunities to Make a Profound Difference in People's Lives

Mark Shriver, a politician and dedicated social justice and education advocate spoke about the importance of grassroots activism and energetic participation in the political process. As president of Save the Children Action Network he leads the American political action arm of one of the world's oldest and most established international non-governmental organizations. Mr. Shriver described his work as spearheading "a movement of young people and adults who care about kids, who want to make systemic change and will hold our political leaders accountable for their investment in children, or lack thereof." Underpinned by his famous political heritage, (as he noted, both his 'Uncle Jack' President John F. Kennedy and his 'Uncle Teddy' Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts were great supporters of the USSYP in years past), his words ignited the room. He described his multifaceted career in public service from his earliest days working for former Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer where he learned that, "Government is not going to ribbon cuttings. It's not making speeches. It's actually going out and listening and learning from people." After eight years in the Maryland General

Assembly, he lost his bid to serve in the U.S. Congress, but told the delegates, "The bottom line is when you lose it's not a lot of fun, but you can also learn from it, and you can learn and grow in that experience." That setback certainly did not stop his national trajectory or dampen his enthusiasm. "Look, democracy is a contact sport," he said, pointing broadly to the students, "You've got to get into the arena. The political process should include every citizen here in the United States," he said, "You've got to get engaged." The delegates could not have been more ready for his challenge. "If you think you're too young and can't make a difference, you're wrong. If you think you only have four friends and a small group can't make a difference in the state capital, you're wrong," he smiled. His service and energy to improve the lives of those with great need and little voice in the process was an inspiration to all.

[lower right] Save the Children Senior Vice President for U.S. Programs and Advocacy Mark Shriver with Maryland delegates David Edimo and David Polefrone







PRESIDENT OF THE NEWSEUM DR. JEFFREY HERBST Critical Thinking Required: Have a Media Strategy For How You Get Your News.









For the second year, Newseum President and CEO Dr. Jeffrey Herbst, personally welcomed students to the only museum that promotes the five freedoms of the First Amendment. Dr. Herbst was adept at connecting with college-bound individuals, drawing on his days serving as president of Colgate University. The conversation with Dr. Herbst about the role of the fourth estate in modern society could not have been timelier. The lively discussion included where Americans seek their news, evolving media funding streams and business models, and the impact of the 24-hour news cycle on our participatory democracy. Dr. Herbst urged all attending to be conscious of their 'media strategy' and

to proactively build a balanced reading, viewing and listening approach that encompasses many points of view. This, he stressed, is more ideal than allowing social media algorithms select your news feed based on what has been viewed in the past, possibly making the walls of a self-created echo chamber even thicker. After his remarks, delegates had the opportunity to explore the deeply moving educational exhibits of the Newseum, stroll the balconies with historic vistas and take on the challenge of hosting a newscast in a simulated television studio.

[upper right] Newseum President and CEO Dr. Jeffrey Herbst with Alaska delegates Madeline Ko and Wilfried Zibell









JOHN FRANKLIN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE Unvarnished History Displayed at D.C.'s Newest Museum

Closing the week was an emotional visit to the National Mall's newest museum. Delegates were given a personal overview of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) by John W. Franklin, the museum's director of partnerships and international programs. "This museum was a dream of our Civil War veterans," Mr. Franklin began, "and to bring the museum to fruition was a century in the making." To experience the NMAAHC can take hours, and although the USSYP had one brief afternoon, many delegates had the chance to descend well below ground level where African and African-American history begin to unfold. As the doors open, sights and sounds of Africa in the 15th century envelop visitors, and a pathway to the modern era begins on ramps that curve and rise upwards, through the timeframes

of the American Revolution, the tumult of the Civil War and into the Civil Rights Era and modern times. The significance of this new addition to the Smithsonian was not lost on USSYP's student leaders. Keturah Gadson of Missouri quoted Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month, saying, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated." Georgia delegate Alvin Winston lauded Mr. Franklin's hard work to allow us "to see a history that reflects the holistic truth, a history that most notably reflects the diverse tapestry that makes up our American society."

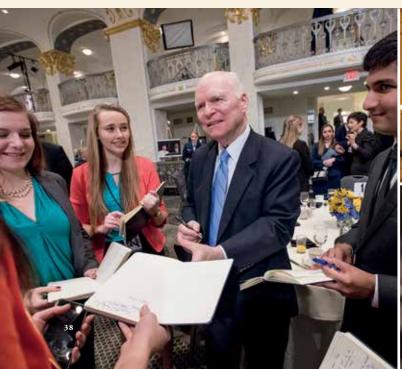
[lower right] John Franklin of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture with delegates Keturah Gadson of Missouri and Alvin Winston of Georgia

A Chance to Reflect, Remember and Share with Those At Home

A Washington Week tradition unfolds on Friday morning of the program week. Delegates descend from Mayflower guest rooms to find that lights and cameras have transformed the Grand Ballroom into a television studio. C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb motions to the cameraman to count down, from three, two, one and the taping of Q&A: A C-SPAN Town Hall with the United States Senate Youth Program begins. The hour seems to fly by, as Mr. Lamb predicted. With poise and enthusiasm, delegates rose to reflect on the speaker that most affected them during the program week. Well-known political figures President Donald Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts were highlighted, but other names came to the forefront as well: Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's dedication to healing, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer's assurance that there are many paths to public service, and journalist Bob Schieffer's counsel to "pursue the truth in whatever you do," all resonated deeply with the young student leaders. Civility and respect were on clear display as the cameras rolled. Arizona delegate Meena Venkataramanan noted, "I've seen a variety of political perspectives here and I really learned the value of discourse and compromise. The way I interact with people who I don't necessarily agree with has completely changed, and I have been able to foster friendships from both sides of the aisle." Dennis Ruprecht, Jr. of New Hampshire agreed, declaring that, "You've got to look past the divisiveness and the headlines."

New Mexico delegate James Valerio said, "Meeting students here and seeing how they are willing to talk despite differences in political ideology gives us hope for the future, that we won't always be this polarized." For delegate Sam Goidell of California the week worked "to humanize our leaders and to humanize the people we look up to." One of the most cherished aspects of the C-SPAN program is the ability to share the uniquely inspiring and emotional week-long experience with hometown friends and family. Parents, teachers and friends get to see and hear from the incredible Military Mentor team who have served as the students' elite chaperones. The depth of friendships that have been established are also evident from the accolades and admiration shared among delegates, and special messages are sent back home. Delegate Wilfried Zibell of Alaska took the occasion to send regards from Vice President Mike Pence to his father over the airwaves. As the taping wrapped, and lights went down, delegates gathered around C-SPAN's leader Brian Lamb with gratitude, admiration and autograph requests. Delegate Erin Sullivan spoke for many in her closing remarks, "Mr. Lamb, thank you for making our government more transparent and for giving people like us a voice on your programs."

[upper right] C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb with Virginia delegates Erin Sullivan and Mazzen Shalaby











DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS JOINED DELEGATES FOR THE 55TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK

The president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are invited to join the delegates each year for Washington Week. We thank our partners in education for all that they do to support the student selection process.

2017 DELEGATE SPEECHES An Evening to Say Farewell

Washington Week 2017 included a joint meeting with the president and vice president, and keynote speeches by the chief justice of the United States, several senators, an ambassador, a renowned journalist and other key members of the executive branch. Much like passing the torch to the next generation, USSYP tradition leaves the final two speeches of the week in the hands of the delegates. Following a unique audition and nomination process designed by the students themselves, two members of the USSYP Class of 2017, one male and one female, were elected by their peers to offer farewell remarks. Delegates Shreya Majagi and Robert Parker, both of Arkansas, inspired and entertained their fellow delegates with uplifting, emotional and thought-provoking speeches. The Farewell Dinner also brought closure to the week with a solemn flag-folding ceremony conducted by the 2017 Military Mentors and the Presentation of the Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.



MS. JAYNE ELLSPERMANN

President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals

She proudly represents over 90,000 school principals and over 1 million students through NASSP's student programs—the National Honor Society and National Student Council Association.



MS. PATRICIA LAUBACH

State Selection Administrator, North Dakota Program Administrator – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

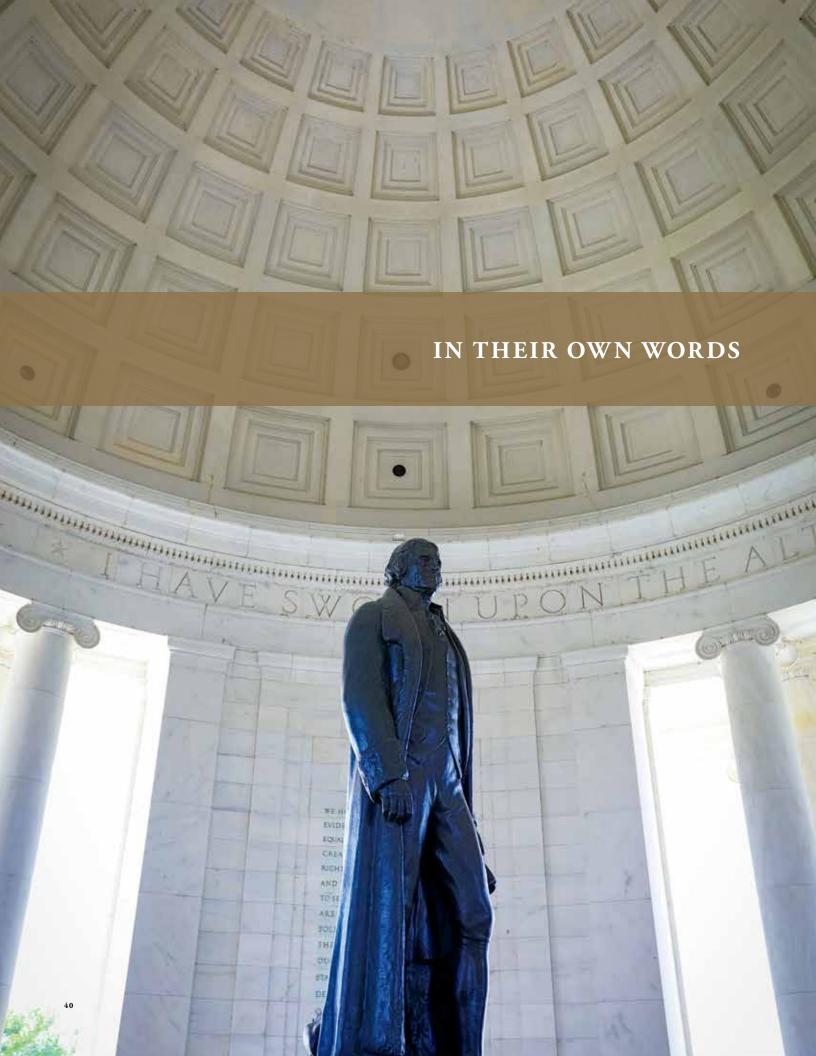


MR. JOHN CARTWRIGHT

Staff Officer III–Office of Accreditation & Special Projects for the Interim Chief, Division of Research & Development–Mississippi Department of Education

[upper right] Delegate Shreya Majagi of Arkansas

[upperleft] Delegate Robert Parker of Arkansas



In the end, Washington Week was marked by faith. Prefacing their remarks, our speakers explained that they took time out of their schedules to speak with us because we gave them hope. After having met my fellow delegates and heard from those who dedicate their lives to placing service before self, I share that hope. After all, the basic framework of our democracy is our citizens, and any citizen, no matter how young, has the ability to make a difference.

JINYUAN ZHANG, NJ - 2017

My favorite speaker was Chief Justice Roberts, whose brilliant, well-articulated responses to our questions reminded me just how blessed I am to be an American. One quote that I will always remember from him was this: "The sacrifice we took to govern ourselves is important and people need to always be grateful by being involved." His words reminded me of the true sacrifice our Founding Fathers, men and women in uniform, and others take to defend our freedom, which truly makes America something exceptional.

RYAN WALLACE, NC - 2017

One of the most powerful moments for me was during our visit to Arlington National Cemetery. As the bus crawled slowly through the hills and the white stones rolled by, I felt a great sense of guilt overcome me. The endless graves were a visualization of the sacrifice that countless men and women have made for freedom, democracy, and this country. Without them, I would have nothing. I was brought to tears as the bus approached the central memorial. As we packed the steps facing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a gentle rain created a scene of perfect sobriety. Taps rang out through the air, and I felt a connection to my country I had never felt before.

CYRUS SHANEHSAZ, DE - 2017

Our future as a nation is bright because we have dedicated movers and shakers in our nation's capital today, but our future as a nation is even more promising because we have an unmatched level of determination in my generation of movers and shakers. I want to be a part of my nation's turning point, and my generation will be the individuals to bring this growth to fruition.

ROBERT SLAUGHTER, MS - 2017



Throughout the week of USSYP, I was constantly astonished by the role models and famous people we would meet. I had heard of these people on the news and seen them on TV, but never before had I gotten the chance to look our nation's leaders in the eye and truly listen to what they had to say. Being in the White House with President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence took my breath away. I couldn't believe it when the 45th president of the United States looked at the delegates and told us he believed the next president would be one (or maybe two) of us.

BRIDGER GORDON, SD - 2017

The highlight of my week was when I had the honor of introducing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room at the State Department. The confidence the program has in high school juniors and seniors to formulate our own remarks is something we rarely encounter in our everyday lives. As a student captivated by the diplomatic happenings of the world around me, especially with my family background in Syria, meeting and introducing the secretary of State is a moment I will remember my entire life.

JOSEPH TOUMA, WV - 2017

Bob Schieffer of CBS News gave another inspirational message. He taught me that the true role of journalism is to keep the government in check, and that any person who threatens to undermine the press, threatens the very heart of democracy itself.

AMANDA FINNEGAN, SD - 2017

The United States Senate Youth Program has shown me that it is my duty and privilege to continue to improve our country. Because I had the honor of experiencing Washington Week, I am never allowed to be complacent.

EMMA TURNER, AL - 2017

My favorite speaker of the week was Senator Cory Booker from New Jersey. While his speech was brief, he gave us a humbling taste of what life can be like for African Americans in a community that doesn't accept them. He reminded us that none of us inherently deserve anything that we are getting out of life, and taught us to appreciate everything we are. He stressed that so many people worked hard before us to get to the point we are at today, so to act like our victories are due to the work we've done is disgraceful to our ancestors. He gave a speech of unity, hope and love for our fellow countrymen.

MASON HUTCHINSON, MT - 2017

Maybe I'll never find the perfect words to explain the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Maybe it's something you only understand if you've actually experienced it. Regardless of this fact, I know I can describe the way this program made me feel: unstoppable.

SHREYA MAJAGI, AR - 2017



One of the most motivating speakers was Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. The composure and passion exuded by the surgeon general quickly enthralled the crowd. He left us with three key lessons to abide by: remember to take risks, think short term instead of long term, and value the anchors in your life. He meticulously elaborated on each lesson, encouraging us to evaluate our own lives on these principles.

JAKE INGOGLIA, IN - 2017

My fellow delegates taught me so much, but one of the most important lessons I learned was how to have civil discourse. With mutual respect and a willingness to listen without being quick to criticize, even the most sensitive of hot button issues can be discussed. Civil discourse has been pushed to the fringes in current politics, but these friends have shown me that it can be restored.

DOUGLAS STEWART II, SC - 2017

Listening to Mark Shriver of the Save the Children Action Network, taught me that public service comes in all forms, as long as you are working for the people. Although I have goals and dreams for the future, it is okay to not have a set-in-stone plan for the future, as long as I am doing something I love and for the betterment of this country.

MIKAYLA KELZ, WI - 2017

Every single person I had the privilege of meeting was remarkable not only in their achievements but in their person. I had some of the most in-depth conversations about the most serious and controversial issues I have ever had, all without the faintest hint of ill will.

MAZZEN SHALABY, VA - 2017

Over the course of the week, I had the pleasure of listening to so many incredible public servants speak that it became one big blur of excellence.

MAURA GOSS, RI - 2017

My favorite quote from the week was from Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer. He said, "At 17-18, you should not know what you are going to do with the rest of your life – that is scary because your mind is not open." I have never had a clear vision of what I want to do after I graduate from college, and hearing this really warmed my heart and encouraged me because I believe he is so right. We need to keep an open mind and be ready for whatever door opens for us.

GRACE BELIZE ANDERSON, WY - 2017

"The greatest challenge to democracy is that people don't care about it." These words were articulated by Chief Justice John Roberts to the delegates of the 55th annual United States Senate Youth Program. As they resounded among the marble pillars of the hallowed Supreme Court of the United States, I glanced around to take in the presence of my 103 fellow delegates seated at the wooden benches behind the bar. With us at the helm, I was beyond confident that democracy would remain alive and well for years to

MEENA VENKATARAMANAN, AZ - 2017

One of the defining lessons I learned during the week occurred as we sat in the rotunda in the National Archives, enjoying an elaborate dinner within reach of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Senator Heitkamp of North Dakota was the keynote speaker and shared her take on important key issues in today's political climate. Towards the end of her speech, she asked the delegates, "What is your legacy going to be?" At that point, I realized that all of the experiences throughout Washington Week would be imminently lost unless all 104 delegates collectively chose to take what we learned back home. My legacy would be insignificant if I simply returned to status quo.

SYDNEY HONEYCUTT, FL - 2017



Another engaging speaker was Senator Heidi Heitkamp; as we ate only a few feet away from some of the most important documents in American history, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, she spoke with such intensity and drive. Senator Heitkamp (and many other speakers throughout the week) assured the delegates that even in our tumultuous and controversial time where partisan politics dominate and the American people have little faith in their government, our nation remains rooted in the fundamental ideal of democracy and will always serve the people first.

SUNG KEUN PARK, IL - 2017

A USSYP alumnus, Judge Henry brought a jovial and engaging tone to his speech. Wildly waving his hand above his head, he told us folk tales, described experience, but most importantly he gave us his political philosophy. "In terms of a political decision you should vote for a person." He said, "You should never let something as temporal as an issue get in the way."

A.J. BRAVERMAN, VT - 2017



Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough, was one of the most inspiring speakers I heard. Besides being the first woman to be Senate parliamentarian her advice was concrete and to the point: "maintain your own integrity and build credibility." I believe in years to come each delegate will use this advice.

ALLISON REINHARDT, MT - 2017

An additional source of support that USSYP introduced me to was my Military Mentor group and the other Military Mentors I had the pleasure of interacting with during the week. My group offered a constant stream of support during a week that I would describe as extremely exciting, but also overwhelming in some ways. Through all of it, my Military Mentor stood as a reliable source of friendship and our small group will remain a group I treasure forever.

GLORIA OLADIPO, IL - 2017

I want to thank our Military Mentors for showing us firsthand what honor, commitment, and service to our country looks like. I learned much from their stories and experiences. They are my heroes, and I am forever grateful for all they do for our great nation.

DALE APLEY III, MI - 2017

If pressed to pick a favorite location, I would undoubtedly say the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Being a young black woman in America, I am always aware of the underrepresentation of black people in our media and the lack of accurate black history education in our school systems. We went to this museum on our last day of Washington Week, and as I got to bear witness to the stories of my ancestors in a place where black history does not begin with slavery, I easily became overwhelmed with appreciation for how much I had learned that week. One of the Military Mentors, in fact, stumbled across me during this emotional reflection and gave me a warm embrace as I wept with the joy of having come on the trip and the pain of having to leave, and so sympathetic were they to my plight that they joined me in crying, for it is not only the delegates who embark on this life changing experience, but the Military Mentors as well. And as impactful as being in that museum was to me, I believe I will remember this encounter much, much longer.

ANANDA DEACON, WI - 2017

I realized that I would be spending a week amidst the brightest and most inspiring high school juniors and seniors from across the country. I questioned, "What did I do to deserve this?" A facetious answer to the previous question would be "You somehow managed to score better than everyone else in your state on the seemingly impossible multiple choice test." However, by the end of the week, I had a new answer. It is not necessarily about what I did. It is about what I can do for others. This is the epitome of public service: acknowledging that you have a powerful voice and capitalizing on it by using that voice to serve the will of those who may not have one. I found a purpose.

LEE ADI, SC - 2017

I left Washington Week a "new" American, someone who (not unlike fresh immigrants) can really see the everyday practices of freedoms so many of us take for granted.

RICKY COOKS, JR., TX - 2017

I am a product of my culture and my values. As an only child of Indian immigrants, I imbibed Gandhi's principles of seva (service) and satya (honesty), all while embracing beliefs of individuality and determination from the country that embraced my parents and me. An aspiring public servant, this program served as the perfect platform for me to share the confluence of my background, experiences, and values with students across the nation, while being exposed to those of my peers.

RUSHI PATEL, IN - 2017



DELEGATES TOURED HISTORIC SITES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL





























CANDID PHOTOS FROM WASHINGTON WEEK 2017













OFFICIAL SENATOR AND STUDENT DELEGATE ROSTER

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2017

$A\,L\,A\,B\,A\,M\,A$



Senator Richard C. Shelby



Senator Luther Strange



Sydney Ross Virgil I. Grissom High School



Emma Turner Indian Springs School

ALASKA



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Daniel Sullivan



Madeline Ko Palmer High School



Wilfried Zibell Noorvik Aqqaiuk High School

ARIZONA



Senator John McCain



Senator Jeff Flake



Henry Rosas Ibarra North Pointe Preparatory



Meena Venkataramanan Catalina Foothills High School

ARKANSAS



Senator John Boozman



Senator Tom Cotton



Shreya Majagi Rogers High School



Robert Parker Southside High School

CALIFORNIA



Senator Dianne Feinstein



Senator Kamala Harris



Amira Chowdhury Herbert Hoover High School



Samuel Goidell Davis Senior High School

COLORADO



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Senator Cory Gardner



Maia Brockbank Denver School of the Arts



Tennyson Brown-Wolf The Peak School

CONNECTICUT



Senator Richard Blumenthal



Senator Christopher S. Murphy



Isha Dalal Trumbull High School

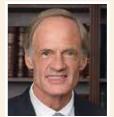


Emma Rook Ankara ES/HS Turkey, DODEA



Emily Sullivan Simsbury High School

DELAWARE



Senator Thomas R. Carper



Senator Christopher A. Coons



Babak Badiey Newark Charter High School



Cyrus Shanehsaz Caesar Rodney High School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton



Dakota Fleury Francis L. Cardoza Education Campus



John Nugent School Without Walls

FLORIDA



Senator Bill Nelson



Senator Marco Rubio



Sterling Alic iPreparatory Academy



Sydney Honeycutt Santa Fe High School

GEORGIA



Senator Johnny Isakson



Senator David Perdue



Jacob Cone Thomasville High Scholars Academy



Alvin Winston II Charles R. Drew Charter School

HAWAII



Senator Brian Schatz



Senator Mazie K. Hirono



Matthew Darrah Kalaheo High School



Jessica Valdez Hilo High School

IDAHO



Senator Michael Crapo



Senator James E. Risch



Kathy Min Centennial High School



Ian Muir Mountain View High School

ILLINOIS



Senator Richard J. Durbin



Senator Tammy Duckworth



Gloria Oladipo Whitney M. Young Magnet High School



Sung Keun Park Metea Valley High School

INDIANA



Senator Joe Donnelly



Senator Todd Young



Jake Ingoglia Munster High School



Rushi Patel Avon High School

IOWA



Senator Charles Grassley



Senator Joni K. Ernst



Michael Moonjely lowa City West High School



Anuja Pharasi Fairfield High School

KANSAS



Senator Pat Roberts



Senator Jerry Moran



John Campbell Mill Valley High School



Tel Wittmer Holton High School

KENTUCKY



Senator Mitch McConnell



Senator Rand Paul



Carmen Cline Montgomery County High School



Amit Lohe Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

LOUISIANA



Senator Bill Cassidy



Senator John Kennedy



Elisabeth McLaughlin Mandeville High School



Sarah Procopio Baton Rouge Magnet High School

MAINE



Senator Susan M. Collins



Senator Angus S. King



Lily Tedford Maine School of Science and Mathematics



Kathleen Waeldner Yarmouth High School

MARYLAND



Senator Benjamin L. Cardin



Senator Chris Van Hollen



David Edimo Richard Montgomery High School



David Polefrone Marriotts Ridge High School

MASSACHUSETTS



Senator Elizabeth Warren



Senator Edward J. Markey



Sara Hogenboom Brookline High School



Tony Shu Wellesley High School

MICHIGAN



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Gary Peters



Dale Apley III Skyline High School



Prathusha Yeruva Troy Athens High School

MINNESOTA



Senator Amy Klobuchar



Senator Al Franken



Alexander Pavlicin Stillwater Area High School



Heather Weller New York Mills High School

MISSISSIPPI



Senator Thad Cochran



Senator Roger F. Wicker



Braeden Foldenauer Mississippi School for Math and Science



Robert Slaughter Sacred Heart Catholic High School

MISSOURI



Senator Claire McCaskill



Senator Roy Blunt



Keturah Gadson Pattonville High School



Andrew Pogue Clinton High School

MONTANA



Senator Jon Tester



Senator Steve Daines



Mason Hutchinson Dawson County High School



Allison Reinhardt Bozeman High School

NEBRASKA



Senator Deb Fischer



Senator Ben Sasse



Matthew Fredricks Northwest High School



Jacob McNeill Elkhorn South High School

NEVADA



Senator Dean Heller



Senator Catherine Cortez Masto



Emmanuel Berrelleza Las Vegas High School



Lauren Lim Reno High School

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



Senator Maggie Hassan



Marion Lovett Stevens High School



Dennis Ruprecht, Jr. Woodsville High School

NEW JERSEY



Senator Robert Menendez



Senator Cory Booker



Nicholas LaBelle North Hunterdon High School



Jinyuan Zhang West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North

NEW MEXICO



Senator Tom Udall



Senator Martin Heinrich



Irene Fernald

Las Cruces High School



James Valerio Taos High School

NEW YORK



Senator Charles E. Schumer



Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Sharon Lin Stuyvestant High School



Hannah Zimmerman Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts

NORTH CAROLINA



Senator Richard Burr



Senator Thom Tillis



Joseph Chong Providence High School



Ryan Wallace Cedar Ridge High School

NORTH DAKOTA



Senator John Hoeven



Senator Heidi Heitkamp



Alyx Schmitz
Oakes High School



Ashlen Wright West Fargo Sheyenne High School

оню



Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Rob Portman



Benjamin Duwve Rossford High School



Nayan Rao Hawken School

OKLAHOMA



Senator James M. Inhofe



Senator James Lankford



Pranoy Behera Bartlesville High School



Andrew Hill Norman North High School

OREGON



Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Jeff Merkley



Marin Christensen Lincoln High School



Nicole Zhen Clackamas High School

PENNSYLVANIA



Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator Patrick J. Toomey



James Smith Shippensburg Area Senior High School



Morgan Vincent Rocky Grove High School

RHODE ISLAND



Senator Jack Reed



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



Maura Goss Portsmouth High School



Elias O'Brien South Kingstown High School

SOUTH CAROLINA



Senator Lindsey Graham



Senator Tim Scott



Lee Adi Carolina Forest High School



Douglas Stewart II Mauldin High School

SOUTH DAKOTA



Senator John Thune



Senator Michael Rounds



Amanda Finnegan Vermillion High School



Bridger Gordon Sturgis Brown High School

TENNESSEE



Senator Lamar Alexander



Senator Bob Corker



Parin Bhaduri Farragut High School



John Casey Ramstein American High School Germany, DODEA



Sydney Rowell Hardin Valley Academy

TEXAS



Senator John Cornyn



Senator Ted Cruz



Ricky Cooks, Jr. Texas High School



Amina Mabizari Elsik High School

UTAH



Senator Orrin G. Hatch



Senator Mike Lee



Sabrina Ellis Mountain Crest High School



Carter Martindale Sky View High School

VERMONT



Senator Patrick J. Leahy



Senator Bernard Sanders



A.J. Braverman Stowe High School



Anneka Williams Harwood Union High School

VIRGINIA



Senator Mark R. Warner



Senator Tim Kaine



Mazzen Shalaby North Stafford High School



Erin Sullivan Abingdon High School

WASHINGTON



Senator Patty Murray



Senator Maria Cantwell



Chloe Dulaney Jenkins Jr/Sr High School



Craig Robertson University High School

WEST VIRGINIA



Senator Joe Manchin III



Senator Shelley Moore Capito



Antonella Blanco James Monroe High School



Joseph Touma Huntington High School

WISCONSIN



Senator Ron Johnson



Senator Tammy Baldwin



Ananda Deacon Nicolet Union High School



Mikayla Kelz Medford Area Senior High School

WYOMING



Senator Michael B. Enzi



Senator John Barrasso



Grace Belize Anderson Wyoming Virtual Academy



Nicole Sanders Powell High School

A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A LEGACY



GEORGE HEARST



PHOEBE A. HEARST



WILLIAM R. HEARST



GEORGE R. HEARST, SR.



RANDOLPH A. HEARST



MILLICENT HEARST

For 55 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young students to Washington, returning them home with insight into their heritage and scholarships to further their education. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships forged in shared experiences that many term "life-changing."

Although they did not live to see the program's creation, the progenitors of The Hearst Foundations are with the USSYP delegates each year in spirit. An exemplar of American success, George Hearst was born on a farm in Missouri and went west to seek his fortune in mining. Through industry and acumen he developed the family fortune, eventually becoming a U.S. senator for California. At the time of his death in 1891, he had served four years of his six-year term. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst, distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicated to educational and children's causes. She cofounded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897, and after she died one educator said, "Her charities were as broad as the sea and as silent as the quiet of the night."

William Randolph Hearst, their only child, was born in 1863 and became one of the great legends of American journalism—establishing vast media holdings and new forms of communication as his newspapers detailed the history of the 20th century. During his life he gave millions of dollars to colleges, hospitals, kindergartens and museums, and in the decade before his death he established the two foundations that bear his name.

The United States Senate Youth Program was envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked with the Senate leadership of the day—Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey—to establish and authorize the program in 1962. Millicent Hearst Boudjakdji, granddaughter of William Randolph Hearst, continued the legacy of leadership and support for the program in her role as foundation president. Since inception, the Senate majority and minority leaders and the vice president of the United States have served as the program's honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one of each party, serve as annual Co-Chairs and an eight-senator bipartisan panel serves as the annual Advisory Committee. The Hearst Foundations fully fund and administer all operational aspects of the program including college scholarships and yearly grants to the state departments of education to support the selection of delegates.

The Hearst Foundations continue to support numerous charitable and educational organizations across the country. The Foundations' two flagship initiatives are the United States Senate Youth Program and the annual William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards Program, founded in 1960, to encourage journalistic excellence and to support education at accredited undergraduate schools of journalism across the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS PLEASE ACCESS: WWW.HEARSTFDN.ORG